

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for generating an interactive coding example for an online computer language tutorial, the method comprising:

defining an example markup for including an example source code in the online tutorial;

processing the example source code to produce an example result;

creating an interactive example window; and

displaying the interactive example window in the online tutorial.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein defining an example markup for including an example source code in the online tutorial comprises defining an example markup in the language used to create the online tutorial.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein processing the example source code in the online tutorial comprises processing the example source code by an example execution engine.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the example execution engine comprises instructions for executing source code examples in online computer language tutorials.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein creating an interactive example window comprises

creating an interactive editing widget;

creating an example result widget; and

creating a control affordances widget.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the interactive editing widget comprises an editor window for typing example source code.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the example result widget comprises a window for displaying example results.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the control affordances widget comprises user interaction control buttons.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the control buttons comprise one or more control buttons, selected from a group consisting of:

- an execute control button;
- a revert control button;
- a full edit control button;
- a save as control button; and
- a close pop-up control button.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the execute control button comprises processing the example source code and displaying the example results to the user when the execute control button is selected by the user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the execute control button further comprises generating an error message window when the execute control button is selected and there is an error in the example source code.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein generating the error message window comprises displaying an error message indicating the error in the example source code.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the revert control button comprises displaying the original example source code to the user when the revert control button is selected by the user.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the full edit control button comprises displaying a pop-up editor window for editing the example source code when the full edit control button is selected by the user.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the save as control button comprises saving the example source code in a file when the save as control button is selected by the user.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein the close pop-up control button comprises closing the pop-up window for displaying example results when the pop-up control button is selected by the user.

17. An apparatus for generating an interactive coding example for an online computer language tutorial, the apparatus comprising:

- a processor;
- a display system; and
- a memory, the memory storing a plurality of routines for execution by the processor, wherein the plurality of routines comprise:
 - web browser software routines; and

an example execution engine;

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the example execution engine comprises routines for executing source code examples in online computer language tutorials displayed in a web browser window.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the routines for executing source code examples comprise:
routines that are embedded in web browser software;

routines that are a plug-in to web browser software; and

stand-alone routines that are accessed by web browser software.